

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5     1.   A device, comprising:  
          a set of computing resources for providing a  
          service which is accessible via a network;  
          service handler that provides access to the  
          service in response to an email message.
- 10
2.   The device of claim 1, wherein the email message  
          carries the service and an invoke command such that  
          the service handler loads and runs the service using  
          the computing resources in response to the invoke  
15       command.
3.   The device of claim 1, wherein the email message  
          carries a URL for the service and an invoke command  
          such that the service handler obtains the service  
20       from the URL and then loads and runs the service  
          using the computing resources in response to the  
          invoke command.
4.   The device of claim 1, wherein the email message  
25       includes a command associated with the service such  
          that the service handler passes the command to the  
          service in response to the email message.
5.   The device of claim 1, wherein the service  
30       handler enables access to the service in response to  
          an HTTP command.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the service is a diagnostic service for the device.

7. A communication system, comprising:

- 5 device having a set of computing resources for providing a service and having a service handler that provides access to the service via a network;  
firewall that controls access to the device from outside of the network;  
10 computing element that accesses the service through the firewall by transferring an email message to the service handler using an email message.

- 15 8. The communication system of claim 7, further comprising a computing element that accesses the service by transferring an HTTP command to the service handler via the network.

- 20 9. The communication system of claim 8, wherein the HTTP command includes a command associated with the service such that the service handler passes the command to the service in response to the HTTP command.

- 25 10. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the email message carries the service and an invoke command such that the service handler loads and runs the service using the computing resources in response to the invoke command.

- 30 11. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the email message carries a URL for the service and an invoke command such that the service handler obtains

the service from the URL and then loads and runs the service using the computing resources in response to the invoke command.

- 5      12. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the email message includes a command associated with the service such that the service handler passes the command to the service in response to the email message.
- 10      13. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the service is a diagnostic service for the device.
- 15      14. A method for accessing a service in a device, comprising the steps of:  
         transferring an email message to the device via a network;  
         accessing the service in response to the email message.
- 20      15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:  
         transferring an HTTP command to the device via the network;  
         accessing the service in response to the HTTP command.
- 30      16. The method of claim 14, wherein the email message carries the service and an invoke command.
17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of loading and running the service using a set

of computing resources in the device in response to the invoke command.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the email  
5 message carries a URL for the service and an invoke command.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the  
10 steps of obtaining the service from the URL and then loading and running the service using a set of computing resources in the device in response to the invoke command.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the email  
15 message includes a command associated with the service.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the  
20 step of passing the command to the service in response to the email message.